

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 17-22 are presented for examination. Claims 8-16 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1-7 have been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 17-22 have been added to provide Applicant with a more complete scope of protection. Claims 1, 21 and 22 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The title has been amended to make it more descriptive, as required in the Office Action.

Of the pending claims, Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,860,119 (Maniwa et al.), Claims 2, 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from *Maniwa* in view of Japanese Kokai 403155974A (Kageyama et al.), and Claims 5 and 6, as being obvious from those two documents in view of U.S. Patent 5,532,849 (McIntyre).^{1/}

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an image output apparatus that comprises an image generator adapted to generate image data based upon input data transmitted from an information processing apparatus, and a controller adapted to receive and control output of the image data that has been generated by the image generator. Also provided is an image forming unit adapted to record an image on a recording medium based upon the image data inputted from the controller. The controller detects occurrence of an error in

^{1/} While the Office Action states that a copy of a translation of *Kageyama* was to have accompanied the Action, no such translation was received. accordingly, the Examiner is requested kindly to supply a copy of the translation in question with his next paper.

said image generator and, when an error has been detected, issues to the image generator an order to execute initialization or to restart.

An example of such an image generator is the formatter 4, which generates image data based upon input data, and an example of such a controller is the image input/output controller 4 in the specification, which receives and controls output of the image data. An example of the recited image forming unit is the printer 2. (It will be understood that the claim scope is not limited by the details of any of the embodiments that may be referred to.)

Maniwa relates to an image forming system which can print images on both sides of a paper sheet. The image forming system decides the best mode for both-side printing in accordance with the paper size and usable memory capacity so that the system performs printing with high performance and low memory requirement. In the *Maniwa* system, if a communication error occurs, a printer controller stops the communication or sends initialization command to the printer engine unit 90 (column 39, lines 17-20).

Applicant submits, however, that nothing has been found or pointed out in *Maniwa* that would teach or suggest an image generator and a controller provided separately, and therefore certainly cannot teach or suggest a controller that issues to an image generator an order to execute initialization or to restart when an error has been detected. In *Maniwa*, the printer controller 130, which performs both image generation and control functions, sends an initialization command to the printer engine 90. The printer controller 130 cannot restore the controller itself from an error, e.g., an error that has occurred in generation of image data, without restarting the controller (i.e., the entire apparatus), even though the printer controller 130 may restore the printer engine 90 from

an error such as a paper jam occurring in the printer engine 90 by initializing the engine 90. For example, assume a PDL syntax error occurs in the *Maniwa* apparatus. All processes progressing in the apparatus must be stopped and initialized to recover the apparatus from the error.

In contrast with this, the controller in Claim 1 restores the image generator from an error that has occurred in interpretation of the print data received from a host computer, by initializing or restarting only the image generator. Thus, the other functions, e.g., facsimile reception/transmission functions, are not affected by this restoring operation.

For at least this reason, Claim 1 is believed to be clearly allowable over *Maniwa*.

Independent Claims 21 and 22 are method and computer memory medium claims respectively corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

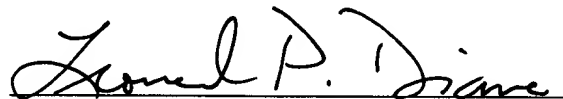
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Leonard P. Diana", written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicant
Leonard P. Diana
Registration No.: 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

NY_MAIN 397935v1